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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



September 28, 2015

Vol. 21, Issue 4

News

President Maimon Honors Faculty Excellence, Educators' Legacy, and Baysore Award Winners at Luncheon



Left to right: Eduardo Garza, Dean of Student Services, Richard J. Daley College; Dr. Jose Aybar, President of Daley College; President Maimon; Joel Archuleta, Advisor, Richard J. Daley College; Wendy Harootunian, DDP Student at Daley College; Provost Deborah Bordelon; Yolanda Pitts, GSU Student Trustee.

At a luncheon on Monday, September 28, President Elaine Maimon hosted the honorees named at this year's Convocation. The three GSU Faculty Excellence Award winners, the two winners of the Educators' Legacy Award, and the Baysore Award honoree joined President Maimon for a celebration of their achievements.

[Read More on page 16](#)

Provost Bordelon Named to Alumni Hall of Fame



From left: Dr. Linda Flynn-Wilson, Professor and Chair of Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans; GSU Provost Deborah Bordelon; Dr. Janice Janz, Associate Professor, Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans, and Dr. Mary Banbury, Professor (retired) (and Bordelon's major professor in her doctoral program), Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans.

At GSU, Provost Deborah Bordelon is recognized for her leadership and professionalism. Now, her alma mater has formally recognized her accomplishments. At a ceremony held last week in New Orleans, Provost Bordelon was inducted into the University of New Orleans' College of Education and Human Development Alumni Hall of Fame.

[Read More on page 19](#)

GSU-PSC Summit Will Feature Nationally-Renowned Expert on Male Success

[Governors State University](#) and [Prairie State College](#) are partnering in a groundbreaking initiative that will create a model for the community college-to-university pathway for male success. The agreement will create the [Dual Degree Program-Male Success Initiative](#) (DDP-MSI) and will be signed by GSU President Elaine P. Maimon and PSC President Terri L. Winfree at a summit in the Center for Performing Arts on Thursday, October 1.



Dr. Shaun R. Harper

As part of the summit, [Dr. Shaun R. Harper](#) will deliver a keynote address at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Harper is the nationally-renowned expert on male success. He is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and a leader in research and practice in this field. He has published 12 books and more than 90 peer-reviewed journal articles and other academic publications.

The summit begins at 1:15 and also includes a student panel discussion with GSU and PSC students at 2:30 p.m. It is open to all GSU students, faculty, and staff.

SUAA Letter Reassures Employees with Insurance Payment Concerns

[GSU employees may have received a letter](#) recently from the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) regarding health, dental, and life insurance. The letter states that despite budget issues in Springfield, health insurance for university employees, retirees and dependents will continue unchanged. Employees who have questions about SUAA coverage or any of the contents of the letter should contact [Human Resources](#) at 708.534.4100.

Mid-term Grading now Available to all Faculty

GSU is joining hundreds of colleges and universities across the nation using mid-term grades as one strategy to support student success. The midterm grading feature is now available in Colleague for all GSU undergraduate and graduate faculty to use this semester. Mid-term grade rosters are currently available for faculty to enter grades in myGSU under online services.

The withdrawal deadline for full-semester fall classes is October 31. Midterm grades should be submitted no earlier than October 4 and no later than October 16, 2015. This allows two weeks for advising conversations with students prior to the withdrawal deadline. A PDF of how to enter mid-term grades is available in myGSU portal. Information about submitting grades will also be sent to faculty via e-mail.

[Read More on page 21](#)

What Would You Do If a Book You Wanted To Read Was Challenged or Censored?



What do the following books all have in common?

[The Bluest Eye](#) by Toni Morrison

[Persepolis](#) by Marjane Satrapi

[Read More on page 23](#)

Thinking about Education as a Career? Join SEA



Leaders of the GSU Student Education Association include, from left: vice president Gwen Medrano, president Samantha Allen, and publications and social media officer Tanya Mathers.

If you are thinking about a career in the education field, then the [Student Education Association](#) (SEA) is the place for you! The SEA is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate students preparing for careers in education. The group is holding its inaugural meeting of the semester on Tuesday, October 6 at 3 p.m. in G160, (the G Atrium Lobby).

[Read More on page 25](#)

State Audit Compliance - All laptops must be upgraded by November 1, 2015

All GSU Laptops and MacBooks are required to have security software installed to encrypt the hard drive.

This is part of a State of Illinois Auditor requirement to better protect the universities sensitive data that may reside on remote devices. It is imperative that your GSU Laptop or MacBook be upgraded by November 1, 2015.

ITS staff will need to perform this required upgrade. Two documents, one [a Word document](#), the other [a PDF file](#), will need to be filled out in advance of the upgrades. Please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 708-534-4357 at your earliest convenience to make an appointment.

BUZZ

CPA Voted the "Best Live Entertainment Value"



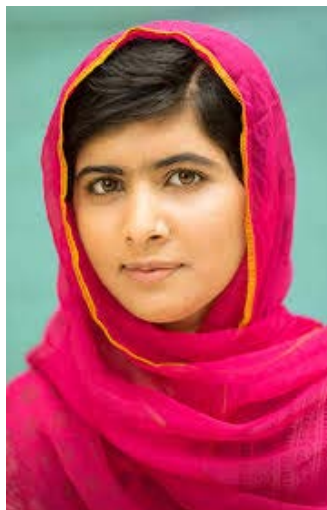
The Center for Performing Arts has been voted "The Best Live Entertainment Venue in the Southland" for the second year in a row, by readers of the *Southtown Star*!

Come see for yourself why this vibrant cultural destination is making a name for itself as a center for arts education, entertainment, community dialog, and creative innovation for students and community members throughout the south suburban and Chicagoland areas.

Upcoming Events in October:

- [Whose Live Anyway?](#) You've seen the TV show, Whose Line is it Anyway?, now see 4 comedy all-stars live for hilarious improv on Friday, October 16.
- **Interested in Improv?** GSU's Theatre & Performance Studies program is offering a new course this spring teaching Improvisation: TAPS 2000-02/4000-02â€Improvisation 3 credits. Contact Dr. Patrick Santoro at psantoro@govst.edu for details.
- [Curious George](#) Join the inquisitive, lovable little monkey Curious George, star of books, movies, and the award-winning PBS television show in this delightful new musical on Saturday, October 17.
- [PHILADANCO! at 45 The Philadelphia Dance Company](#) The sounds of Nina Simone, Steve Reich and the legendary James Brown come alive through explosive dance in PHILADANCO! on October 24. If you like Alvin Ailey, you'll love Philadanco!

GSU Tickets for Sold-Out Malala Event



In honor of the United Nation's [International Day of the Girl](#), MALA: Muslim American Leadership

Alliance; Participant Media and the Malala Fund is presenting the Chicago Premiere of the film "He Named Me Malala," on Sunday, October 11 from 10 a.m.-noon at the AMC River East 21. The film is an intimate portrait of Malala Yousafzai, who was wounded when Taliban gunmen opened fire on her and her friends' school bus in Pakistan.

A "[Students Stand with Malala](#)" event will be moderated by GSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences Assistant Professor Khalil Marrar. Although it is sold out, a block of free seats exclusively for GSU attendees is available. Contact [Khalil Marrar](#) for more information.

Time to Eat? Visit Café at Best Times



Have you noticed the [cafeteria](#) is busier at some times than others? Like any restaurant, the café has peak times and off times. As you might expect, 12–1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, is a high traffic time coinciding with the lunch rush. But there is also a late afternoon traffic bump as students start arriving on campus for late afternoon/early evening classes. These bumps in traffic usually occur around 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. If you're looking for a less crowded time for your café visit, try coming for an early lunch between 11-11:45 a.m. The hours between 5-6 p.m. are also good times to visit if you are in a hurry.

Purchase Your Step Show Tickets by Today



Be sure to [get your tickets](#) for the 2015 Step Show Friday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. This inaugural event is one of the many highlights of our annual Family & Friends Weekend.

Learn Debate and Inspire Young Minds

Students interested in debate will be happy to hear of an exciting new opportunity to learn about the theory and practice of argumentation and forensics. The new program is being led by Assistant Professor Khalil Marrar with the [Urban Debate League](#).

In addition to learning about debate, GSU students will have the opportunity to mentor and inspire some of the most brilliant young minds from the top high schools in the city, and also earn money for judging on weekends or in their free time. No experience is necessary and full on-the-job training will be provided. Specific details will be forthcoming. Contact [Khalil Marrar](#) for more information.

Community Service Council has Events on its Plate



Are you ready for some tacos? The [Community Service Council](#) is sponsoring Walking Taco Tuesday on September 29th from 10-a.m.-2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Grab a delicious walking taco bag for \$3 each or two for \$5.

The Council is also sponsoring a used gym shoe donation drive October 5-23. Gym shoe PAIRS ONLY will be accepted in large donation boxes that will be located near the elevators across campus. And be sure to celebrate national [Make a Difference Day](#), with the Council as it hosts a Blood Drive, Saturday, October 24 from noon-5 p.m. in the Great Hall at Prairie Place. [Schedule your appointment](#) online and use group code: GSU1. For more information on any of these events, contact [Ricca Louissaint](#).

Freshmen and Sophomores, Walk-In Help for Writing

If you are a freshman or sophomore and unsure about how to get started with your paper assignment, or if you have an idea that is good and want to make it better, visit the Writing Center Sophomore Tutors located either at Prairie Place or the Library Balcony. The Sophomore Tutors will help you to get started and help you to make a good paper great.

"Sophomore Tutors is a new program this year, and all tutors have been trained in the Writing Center," said Becky Nugent, Coordinator of the [GSU Writing Center](#). "They are your peers. Last year they took the same classes that freshmen are taking now, and now they might be taking some of the same classes sophomores are taking," she said.

Following are the times that the Sophomore Tutors are available:

Prairie Place: Sunday, 3–10 p.m.; Monday, 6–9 p.m.; Tuesday, 6–9 p.m.; Saturday, 6–10 p.m.

Library Balcony: Monday, 11a.m-Noon, 2–3 p.m., and 6–9 p.m.; Tuesday, 2–5 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m.–Noon, and 2–10 p.m.; Thursday, 7–10 p.m.

Freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to simply drop in during these times to get help. It is on a first come first serve basis. Although the sophomore tutors are for freshmen and sophomores only, any student can make a [45-minute appointment](#) for help at the Writing Center.

EVENTS

GSU Celebrates Latino Heritage Month



GSU's celebration of [Latino Heritage Month](#), continues this week with two free events.

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29 join the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) in the Café Annex as they partner with the Family Development Center to teach children how to make piñatas and learn about Latino culture.

Also on September 29, at 6 p.m. in Engbretson Hall, YWCA Advocate Sonia Ayala presents Sexual Assault In The Latino Community. Join us as Ms. Ayala discusses her experience on the border and working with Latino victims of sexual violence in DuPage County.

Master of Occupational Therapy Info Session

The [Department of Occupational Therapy](#) will sponsor an Information Session for the Master of Occupational Therapy degree program at GSU on Wednesday, September 30, at 5 p.m. in G 157. Attendees are encouraged to bring unofficial copies of transcripts. For more information, contact [Patricia Kalvelage](#).

Documentary Screening at Art Institute



The Black Student Union is sponsoring a trip for students, faculty, and staff to the [Art Institute](#) of

Chicago on Thursday, October 1 to view the [Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution](#), the first feature-length documentary that takes a look at the revolutionary Black Panther party. Featuring archive footage, the film examines political and cultural significance of the movement critical to Blacks in America during a turbulent era when cities were on fire, the Vietnam War was raging, and the racial inequality persisted. The cost of the trip is \$5 per person which includes ticket and transportation. Bus will depart from GSU at 5 p.m. and return immediately after viewing. Please [RSVP](#) by Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

GSU Jaguar Jump! Major Fair October 5



Please join us on Monday, October 5 as we kick off the first ever GSU "Jaguar Jump!" [New Student Programs](#) will be hosting this undergraduate Major Fair designed with freshman sophomore, undecided, and undeclared students in mind.

The Jaguar Jump Major Fair is your opportunity to explore the numerous undergraduate academic programs offered at GSU. If you don't know what you want to major in, or even if you do, the Jaguar Jump! is a great resource to help determine the next steps toward completing your academic journey.

Submit your [RSVP now](#) and secure your chance to meet with potential program advisors, speak with [Career Services](#) about internship opportunities and career outlooks, and network with GSU faculty, staff, and upperclassmen. Your RSVP also gives you an automatic entry into our special prize drawing. Contact [LaTonya Holmes](#) for more information.

Unlearn, Relearn, Learn October 6

Join the [Office of Intercultural Student Affairs](#) for "Unlearn, Relearn, Learn" Tuesday, October 6 at 6 p.m. in Room F1622. The quarterly program series will provide an opportunity for the GSU community to unlearn myths, stereotypes and fallacies about various subject matters, relearn the truth and learn ways to shape their understanding that will aid in bridging cultural divides in the campus community. Participants will be exposed to current cultural issues as well as challenge the GSU community to realize the benefits of living in a multicultural world. The topic for this "Unlearn, Relearn, Learn" is Immigration. Email for [more information](#) or call x4551.

Professional Image and Career Conference

The Office of Career Services is hosting a Professional Image and Career Conference October 6-8.

"Preparation is the key to a successful Career" will feature such beneficial career advice as Job Search Tips for International Students, S.T.A.R. Interviewing Skills, and How to Find an Internship. No registration is necessary. Visit the [Office of Career Services](#) website a complete schedule. For more information, [email](#) or call 708-235-3974.

Family & Friends Weekend, October 8 – 10



Online registration is now open for [Family and Friends Weekend](#) October 8–10. For many students, this special event provides the first opportunity to visit with family and friends since the beginning of the semester. This exciting October weekend presents an important opportunity for families and friends to share firsthand in their student's GSU experience. GSU Presidential Scholar [Carolina Serrato](#) is among many students and faculty who made videos explaining why you should attend.

There are lots of exciting events are planned, including the Jaguar Jamboree on Friday, and a Step Show featuring Power 92 "The Hot Boys," a Student Variety Show hosted by Comedian "Just Nesh," and Jazz Brunch with the President on Saturday.

Also, this year the colleges have joined together to create the "Generation Meet and Greet: All College Alumni Social" on Friday night. Be sure to contact all your classmates and tell them to meet you there! Share this information with family, friends, constituents, retirees and alumni.

[Registration](#) is free for parents, family members, alumni, and friends of GSU. Participants will also be able to register on site. Space is limited for some events, and there is a minimal cost for some activities. Download a copy of the [event brochure](#). Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact [Student Life](#).

SAVE THE DATE

National Depression Screening Day October 8

To increase awareness and encourage early intervention for mood and anxiety disorders, GSU is hosting a campus-wide [National Depression Screening Day®](#) event Thursday, October 8 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. "Increasing numbers of college students are arriving on campus with mental health issues," said Emily Petkus, clinical mental health counselor in the [Academic Resource Center](#). "Our goals for this event are to help identify students who may be struggling with depression or other mood disorders and connect them with quality treatment options early on."

Similar to many physical illnesses, early recognition and treatment offers the best opportunity for recovery from mental illness. The anonymous and confidential screening tool is designed to help students examine any thoughts or behaviors that may be associated with depression, generalized anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, or posttraumatic stress disorder. After completing the self-

assessment, students will be able to talk to a mental health professional and receive treatment information through the Student Counseling Center if necessary. Contact [Emily Petkus](#) for more information.

Communication Disorders Accreditation Site Visit Meeting Times

The MHS in Communication Disorders (CDIS) Program is hosting a site visit team from the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) on October 8 and 9, 2015. As part of their visit, the team will have a meeting with current CDIS graduate students on Thursday, October 8, from 3:30-4:15 p.m. in Room D34170. The team will also have a meeting with community members who have a working relationship with the program on Thursday, October 8, from 5–6 p.m. in Room F1622.

The MHS in CDIS Program is an important resource in the region, providing a high-quality academic and clinical education that generates about 30 well-qualified graduates to the speech-language pathology workforce annually. CAA accreditation is a mark of that quality for students, employers and the community we serve. The program has been continuously accredited since the 1980s. This site visit is part of the regular eight-year cycle of accreditation, and an important event in the life of the program. With this site visit and re-accreditation application, our goal is to maintain that accredited status for another eight years.

Individuals may provide feedback about the program to CAA by attending one of the meetings, or by [submitting comments online](#).

Study Abroad in South Africa



How would you like to study abroad in South Africa? The GSU College of Business is sponsoring a 12-day study trip that will include visits to companies and universities, cultural activities and tourism sights. Learn more at an information session Monday, October 12 from 6 - 7 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. [RSVP](#) by October 8 or call 708.534.4930 for more details.

Symposium will Explore Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices

Explore ways in which mindfulness, meditation, and contemplative practices are incorporated into academic settings to create learning communities. [Register](#) today for the GSU Symposium on Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices in Higher Education Friday, October 16, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in E-Lounge. This daylong symposium will feature presentations and workshops, panel discussion and experiential learning. The cost is \$25 for non-GSU students and \$15 for students. Seven CEUs are available. Contact [Dr. Maristela Zell](#) for more information.

S.H.E.R.O. Women's Leadership Symposium



Please join us for the 2nd Annual S.H.E.R.O. (Sharing Her story of Empowerment Resilience & Opportunity) Women's Leadership Symposium to facilitate students' professional leadership development on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

This year's theme, **E3: Empower, Enrich, Engage** will inspire and encourage attendees to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. Participants will gain a greater understanding of their own approach to leadership and identify personal leadership strengths that contribute to one's advancement. The symposium will include a luncheon, keynote, and breakout sessions open to all women and women-identified community college students, GSU undergraduate and graduate students interested in a day of professional development and networking.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the online [registration form](#) by October 16. If you have any questions, contact [Jessica Specht](#) or [Kyrie Kirkland](#).

SafeZone Training October 20

A SafeZone training session for staff and faculty members ONLY will be held Tuesday, October 20 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. The goal of this program is to raise awareness about the dynamics of gender and sexual orientation while exploring different ways to embody inclusive allyship for people of all orientations, genders, sexualities, identities, and levels of being out. This program is limited to 25 participants only. For more information email diversity@govst.edu or call 708-524-4551.

Community Health Degree Information Sessions

A degree in Community Health is your ticket to the world. Whatever your interest—healthy aging, wellness promotion, treating chronic illness—your career path in Community Health can take you in many different directions.

Meet our faculty, alumni and current students to find out more at two information sessions on Thursday, October 22: 10-11:30 a.m. in the Hall of Honors, or 6-7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

For additional information, contact [Dr. Joseph Day](#) or 708.235.7389.

Strut for the Cure October 23

The [Social Work Student Organization](#) will hold its Strut for the Cure for cancer, Friday, October 23, at 7p.m. in Sherman Hall. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For Tickets, please contact [Johnsie McAuley-Davis](#) or 708.235.3997.

Sports

Cross Country Squads Post Impressive Times in COD Invite



On Friday, September 25 the [men's cross country](#) team competed in the College of DuPage Invitational, and two GSU runners trimmed their times from previous meets. Willie Lipsey III took an impressive 1:25.23 off his last 8K time to finish the race in 32:18.02. Richard Gray improved his time by 33.53 seconds to finish in 33:09.72. On the [women's side](#), sophomore Dominique Hunt set the GSU mark for fastest 5K with a time of 26:05.51 at the Invitational. The impressive feat came in Dominique's first 5K race of the season.

The [women's volleyball team](#) is continuing its growing pains as they lost away matches to Indiana University East and Purdue Calumet University on September 26. The team now has a record of 0-19.

Learn more about the Jaguars by following them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



Facebook Posts of the Week



Response to our post on the improv show of Whose Live Anyway on October 16 at the Center for Performing Arts:

Shakana Kirksey-Polk Sounds awesome... I love that show



Featuring our newest artwork in the Prairie Place laundry room!



Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



[Governors State University](#)

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University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
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Read More content from the GSU website follows.

President Maimon Honors Faculty Excellence, Educators' Legacy, and Baysore Award Winners at Luncheon

At a luncheon on Monday, September 28, President Elaine Maimon hosted the honorees named at this year's Convocation. The three GSU Faculty Excellence Award winners, the two winners of the Educators' Legacy Award, and the Baysore Award honoree joined President Maimon for a celebration of their achievements.

This year's Faculty Excellence winners were: Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, Carlos Ferran; Academic Support Professional and Coordinator for New Student Programs and Cohort Advising, LaTonya Holmes, and Professor of English, Rosemary Johnsen. Each was awarded \$6,000 prizes for their outstanding contributions to GSU.



Left to right: Eduardo Garza, Dean of Student Services, Richard J. Daley College; Dr. Jose Aybar, President of Daley College; President Maimon; Joel Archuleta, Advisor, Richard J. Daley College; Wendy Harootunian, DDP Student at Daley College; Provost Deborah Bordelon; Yolanda Pitts, GSU Student Trustee.

Dr. Ferran teaches in three disciplines – accounting, (MIS) management information systems, and

strategic management – and earns high praise from his students in all three. He is a leader in developing interactive online instruction and has presented on this topic at state conferences. He is an active researcher in the areas of technology and economics. Not only does he superbly represent GSU as a teacher and researcher, he also has an extensive service record at the university.

LaTonya Holmes has been serving GSU students since 2002, but in 2012 she accepted a most important assignment – preparing for our first freshman class. She developed multiple innovations – developing orientation activities, launching an extensive peer mentoring program to support both faculty and students during our first year of cohort classes, and served as THE academic advisor for all freshmen in the Class of 2018.

Rosemary Johnsen publishes peer reviewed papers and book reviews about British and Irish fiction and contributes to GSU's reputation at national conferences. She has been active in developing the new General Education curriculum and has participated in the HLC Assessment Academy.

Geoff Bates, Director and Curator of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is this year's winner of the Baysore Award. Presented in memory of Dr. Gerald C. Baysore, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, who, for 18 years, served GSU with distinction, the award is the highest honor GSU can bestow on its employees.

In announcing Geoff Bates as the Baysore winner, President Maimon said, "He has elevated our Sculpture Park – it is internationally recognized and people come from all over the world to see our sculptures. Geoff works with our grounds people to make sure that the areas surrounding the sculptures emphasize and complement the art. When *New Yorker* art critic Peter Schjeldahl visited the park, he praised us for this integration. Geoff works with arts organizations in the area to promote GSU and art in general. He leads tour groups, is an excellent writer, plans exquisite (and successful!) events. Geoff inspires our campus commitment to Living in the Midst of Art."

The Educators' Legacy Awards were presented to K-12 teachers who were nominated by members of the freshmen class as being inspirational influences to their lives. This year, DDP students were also asked to nominate inspiring community college teachers.



Left to right: President Maimon; Adam Page, English teacher from Metea Valley High School; Daracrius Brown, GSU Freshman, nominated Mr. Page for this award; Dr. Darrell Echols, Principal, Metea Valley High School; Provost Deborah Bordelon.

The winners were Adam Page, an English teacher from Metea Valley High School in Aurora, who was nominated by freshman Darcarius Brown, and Joel Archuleta, an Advisor at Richard J. Daley College, nominated by DDP student Wendy Harootunian.

Darcarius Brown said for his former teacher, Page was “a kind and wonderful teacher who taught me a lot in the two years he was my teacher – sophomore and junior years. He pushed me to become a better writer, giving concise and valuable feedback – much needed when writing.”

Wendy Harootunian’s praise of her advisor, Archuleta was just as ringing. “He has not only helped me and supported me, but has been one of my biggest cheerleaders. This man was a wealth of knowledge and an invaluable resource – especially to this adult student.”

Provost Bordelon Named to Alumni Hall of Fame

September 28, 2015

At GSU, Provost Deborah Bordelon is recognized for her leadership and professionalism. Now, her alma mater has formally recognized her accomplishments. At a ceremony held last week in New Orleans, Provost Bordelon was inducted into the University of New Orleans' College of Education and Human Development Alumni Hall of Fame.



From left: Dr. Linda Flynn-Wilson, Professor and Chair of Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans; GSU Provost Deborah Bordelon; Dr. Janice Janz, Associate Professor, Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans, and Dr. Mary Banbury, Professor (retired) (and Bordelon's major professor in her doctoral program), Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans.

The honor is given only to graduates who have demonstrated exceptional service to the field of education. It recognizes Bordelon for accomplishments and contributions throughout her career.

"It is truly an honor to be inducted into the University of New Orleans College of Education and Human Development's Hall of Fame. As a first generation college graduate, the University of New Orleans and the College of Education and Human Development provided me with opportunities that as a teenager growing up in the New Orleans area I did not think possible," Bordelon said.

The Hall of Fame selection criteria states graduates will only be considered if they have "distinguished themselves by demonstrating the highest level of professional accomplishments, and making extraordinary contributions to improve teaching, leading, and learning from the student level to the policy level."

Bordelon is appreciative of the influence the University of New Orleans has had on her. "As a three-time alum, the impact UNO and the COEHD has had on my life has been tremendous. Throughout my teaching and administrative career, I have been able to apply what I learned through my experiences in the College of Education and Human Development to a myriad of situations. I very proudly share that UNO prepared me well."

Mid-term Grading now Available to all Faculty

September 28, 2015

GSU is joining hundreds of colleges and universities across the nation using mid-term grades as one strategy to support student success. The midterm grading feature is now available in Colleague for all GSU undergraduate and graduate faculty to use this semester. Mid-term grade rosters are currently available for faculty to enter grades in myGSU under online services.

The withdrawal deadline for full-semester fall classes is October 31. Midterm grades should be submitted no earlier than October 4 and no later than October 16, 2015. This allows two weeks for advising conversations with students prior to the withdrawal deadline. A PDF of how to enter mid-term grades is available in myGSU portal. Information about submitting grades will also be sent to faculty via e-mail.

Faculty teaching in the lower-division cohort program (freshmen/sophomores) will enter mid-term grades for students enrolled in those courses by October 16; however, all faculty are encouraged to consider submitting mid-term grades. Students can view their midterm grades in their myGSU portal. The Academic Resource Center (all students) and academic advisors (lower-division students) will follow-up students earning below a mid-term grade of C or lower. Of course, the outreach will include information about the ARC and other academic support resources. Although the mid-term grade is not part of the GPA calculation, with timely feedback, students can determine if they wish to drop a class or utilize campus support services to get back on track.

Across the country first-year student success measures such as persistence (fall to spring) and retention (fall to fall) rates have remained stagnant, which Noel Levitz (2015) recently reported at 87 percent and 67 percent respectively for regional publically supported institutions. Consequently colleges and universities have increased their focus on student success by implementing proven strategies, including the use of midterm grades. In *Student Success: Building a Culture for Retention and Completion on College Campuses* (2015) commissioned by Blackboard and published by the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), of the 300 participating institutions, 60 percent of the public institutions and 82 percent of private institutions reported using midterm academic progress alerts. Additionally, 20 percent of public institutions, and three percent of private institutions report actively working towards using midterm grades as a student success approach. In total, 80 – 85 percent of institutions are using,

or are seeking to use, midterm grades as a student success approach. Midterm grades help advisors and academic resource center staff support both at-risk and high achieving students. The main contribution of midterm grades to student success practices results from providing students a clear assessment of their academic performance before withdrawal deadlines, and in time to seek out and employ improved study skills.

If you have any questions about the mid-term grade process, or would like to provide comments about a student who needs support, please contact [Amy Comparon](#), *Director of the Academic Resource Center*.

What Would You Do If a Book You Wanted To Read Was Challenged or Censored?

September 28, 2015

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What do the following books all have in common?

<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	by Toni Morrison
<i>Persepolis</i>	by Marjane Satrapi
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	by Kaled Hosseini



Each one of these books has been challenged in 2014, which means that attempts have been made to remove or restrict these books based upon the objections of a person or group. Challenges are an attempt to remove material from a class curriculum or from a library. These efforts are designed to restrict access of these book or materials from others. A banning is the actual removal of those materials.

As a result of efforts that are made to challenge or restrict access to books and materials, [The American Library Association](#) is sponsoring [Banned Books Week](#) September 27-October 3 designed to

promote the awareness of these challenges to library materials and celebrate freedom of speech and choice.

“Libraries promote the freedom to choose and express one’s own opinions while making sure that all viewpoints are available for those who would like to read them. This is why we have a special exhibit dedicated to Banned Books Week outside of the GSU Library balcony,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library.

Today is the official kick off to The Big Read program at GSU and in libraries across the Southland. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. At GSU, the Big Read will focus on Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.

Activities will run through November 8, culminating with stage performances of [Fahrenheit 451](#) at the [Center for Performing Arts](#).

“We want all in our GSU community to know and understand that from time to time books have been challenged and even censored. This is why kicking off our Big Read Fahrenheit 451 events is a natural during Banned Books week, ” Morrow Ruetten said.

A screening of the 1966 movie will be held today from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. The cast of the GSU stage production will join in a post-film discussion. A detailed list of [Big Read events](#) at GSU and libraries throughout the south suburbs is available online. Be sure to check out the Big Read [promotional video](#) to see more.

Thinking about Education as a Career? Join SEA

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If you are thinking about a career in the education field, then the [Student Education Association \(SEA\)](#) is the place for you! The SEA is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate students preparing for careers in education. The group is holding its inaugural meeting of the semester on Tuesday, October 6 at 3 p.m. in G160, (the G Atrium Lobby).

SEA student leaders attended a summit in Bloomington, IL last month and are excited to start the semester by applying what they learned and inviting new members to join the organization.



Leaders of the GSU Student Education Association include, from left: vice president Gwen Medrano, president Samantha Allen, and publications and social media officer Tanya Mathers.

SEA Faculty Advisor Katy E. Hisrich, an assistant professor in the College of Education, said anyone who has not been licensed yet and is going into the education field is eligible to join the SEA. "That includes

not only people who are considering becoming teachers, but also school counselors. It really is a great organization to join. Students attend workshops and events that promote better teaching, volunteering, and serving the community."

Students who join SEA are also members of the [Illinois Education Association](#) (IEA) and the [National Education Association](#) (NEA). This means SEA members receive the benefits of both of the larger groups including mentoring programs, professional development workshops, employment assistance and even liability insurance, all at a reduced student cost.

SEA President Samantha Allen said one of the goals of the SEA at GSU is to get people excited about going into education as a career. "We are planning events to reach out to the community. We will be reaching out to area high school students to encourage them to get into teaching careers. "The group members are also looking forward to launching a social media presence this semester. SEA Publication and Social Media Officer Tanya Mathers said the student leadership team learned the importance of networking at the Bloomington conference and hope to use social media to network with other education professionals.

SEA Vice President Gwen Medrano added that the organization members will be attending the [Illinois Education Association Student](#) Program Conference in Lisle in November. "This is THE conference for students entering the field of teaching," she said.

New members are encouraged to attend the October 6 meeting, which Hisrich said will feature guest speaker Kesa Thurman, Director/Mentor at the Golden Apple Foundation, as well as a GSU Alumnae and past recipient of the Golden Apple Scholarship. "We welcome members and non-members to the first 2-3 meetings, but after that it is members only," Hisrich said.

Meetings are held 1-2 times per month and dates and times vary to allow for more student attendance and to accommodate student schedules. For more information on how you can get involved with SEA, attend the meeting or contact Faculty SEA Advisor [Katy Hisrich](#). Faculty Members on the SEA Committee: Dr. Katy E. Hisrich (Chair), Dr. Xiaobo She, Dr. Megan McCaffrey, and Dr. Duane Davis.